# County of Sonoma

## Agenda Item

### Summary Report

Agenda Item Number: 25  
(This Section for use by Clerk of the Board Only.)

Clerk of the Board  
575 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### To:
The Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County

### Board Agenda Date: May 8, 2018  
Vote Requirement: Majority

### Department or Agency Name(s): Permit and Resource Management Department

### Staff Name and Phone Number:
Amy Lyle, 707-565-7389

### Supervisorial District(s):
All

### Title: Climate Change Action Resolution

### Recommended Actions:

Approve and adopt the Climate Change Action Resolution to support a county-wide framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue local actions that support the identified goals therein.

### Executive Summary:

The Regional Climate Protection Authority collaborated with a countywide Staff Working Group under the direction of the Regional Climate Protection Authority Board of Directors to develop a document entitled, Climate Action 2020 Plan: A Regional Program for Sonoma County Communities. Climate Action 2020 builds on prior commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a community-wide climate action plan for all communities in Sonoma County. The Regional Climate Protection Authority developed Climate Action 2020 over the course of several years, with input from all local city councils, the Board of Supervisors, local government staff, expert consultants, community sustainability leaders, and hundreds of members of the public. The Plan proposed that each local government contribute towards a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. The Regional Climate Protection Authority certified an Environmental Impact Report and adopted the Climate Action Plan in 2016, and was subsequently litigated. The Superior Court found the Environmental Impact Report inadequate and the Regional Climate Protection Authority declined to appeal.

The Climate Action 2020 Plan is not able to be adopted at this time and staff recommends adopting the enclosed Resolution to provide support and policy direction for future efforts related to climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

### Discussion:

Action on a worldwide basis is required to address the various adverse impacts of increasing greenhouse gas emissions, which range from rising sea levels, flooding and drought to the increased risk of wildfires, and the destruction of ocean ecosystems through rapid ocean acidification. According to NASA, seventeen of the 18 warmest years in the 136-year record all have occurred since 2001, and the warmest year on record was 2016. In 2017 our planet passed 400 ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere, up from the low 300s just in 1960. Without
intervention, this trajectory will result in greenhouse gas emission concentrations that existed in the geologic past when palm trees and reptiles were found in the Arctic. The last time the planet had a concentration of 300 to 400 ppm of CO2, sea levels were at least 15-25 meters higher than present levels, and CO2 is currently projected to rise far above current concentrations.

The Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority was formed in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts among Sonoma County’s nine cities and the County of Sonoma. The goal of the Regional Climate Protection Authority is to collaborate with local agencies on setting goals, pooling resources, and formalizing partnerships to create local solutions to complement State, Federal, and private sector actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The Regional Climate Protection Authority collaborated with a countywide Staff Working Group under the direction of the Regional Climate Protection Authority Board of Directors to develop a document entitled, Climate Action 2020 Plan: A Regional Program for Sonoma County Communities. Climate Action 2020 builds on prior commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a community-wide climate action plan for all communities in Sonoma County. The Regional Climate Protection Authority developed Climate Action 2020 over the course of several years, with input from all local city councils, the Board of Supervisors, local government staff, expert consultants, community sustainability leaders, and hundreds of members of the public. The Plan proposed that each local government contribute towards a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.

California River Watch filed an unproductive challenge to the Regional Climate Protection Authority’s adoption of the plan on the grounds of the inadequacy of the Environmental Impact Report, not because it opposed the measures in the plan, but instead because it opposed using the plan for subsequent CEQA review. Although the Environmental Impact Report utilized standard regional traffic methodologies and the inventory methodologies used by the State of California in setting and explaining statewide targets, a Superior Court judge disagreed with these methodologies and suggested that worldwide travel should be analyzed by local governments. The Regional Climate Protection Authority Board of Directors elected not to appeal due to its own limited funds and because the 2020 goal was incompatible with lengthy litigation. Additional planning actions will be needed in any case to address post-2020 targets.

Although Climate Action 2020 cannot be used for CEQA processing due to the Superior Court’s order, it can still serve as an advisory resource for the Regional Climate Protection Authority’s work to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts. The concepts contained in the plan are intended to advance smart land use, resource efficiency, carbon free electricity, fuel switching, and are aligned with the climate action strategies articulated in the State Scoping Plan established to achieve the goals of AB 32 and SB 32. To create more clear direction for Regional Climate Protection Authority staff on an ongoing basis, the Regional Climate Protection Authority Board adopted Resolution No. 2017-003, officially updating greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and policy goals to reduce greenhouse gasses and prepare for local climate impacts. The intent of the resolution is to achieve the same policy impetus behind climate action as would have the Climate Action 2020 plan, notwithstanding the setback from the lawsuit.

Taking policy action at a city and county level through adoption of the attached resolution is intended to help create countywide consistency and clear guidance about coordinated implementation of the greenhouse gas reduction measures. If adopted, the attached resolution could provide some of the comprehensive policy framework that had been proposed in Climate Action 2020. In addition to Regional Climate Protection
Authority Resolution No. 2017-003, a similar resolution has already been adopted by the City of Sebastopol, the City of Sonoma, the City of Cloverdale, and the Town of Windsor. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County approve the adoption of the Climate Change Action Resolution.

**Prior Board Actions:**

July 8, 2008 - The Board of Supervisors approved development of Regional Climate Protection Coordination Plan.

September 12, 2006 - The Board of Supervisors approved the Climate Protection Action Plan as the road map to create the reductions immediately below.

September 27, 2005 – The Board of Supervisors, along with all other local jurisdictions in the County, committed to a community-wide goal of a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our 1990 baseline levels by the year 2015.

August 20, 2002 - The Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution committing the county to participate in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Climate Protection Campaign to set a target to reduce the county’s internal operations greenhouse gas emissions by 20% of year 2000 baseline levels to approximately 30,000 tons per year by the year 2010.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

Goal 2: Economic and Environmental Stewardship

Adoption of the Climate Change Action Resolution serves to support the strategic goal of economic and environmental stewardship by providing county-wide coordinated implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures. By providing a clear framework, the Climate Change Action Resolution has the potential to direct policy toward providing energy and cost savings, air quality and public health improvements, local job creation, resource conservation, climate resilience, and enhanced equity.
## Fiscal Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>FY 17-18 Adopted</th>
<th>FY 18-19 Projected</th>
<th>FY 19-20 Projected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted Expenses</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Appropriation Requested</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund/WA GF</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/Federal</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees/Other</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Fund Balance</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sources</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

The Climate Change Action Resolution as presented has no direct fiscal impact and therefore, requires no additional 2018 fiscal appropriation including recurring or one-time costs. Moreover, no outside funding is required and no funding shall be required for future fiscal years.

### Staffing Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</th>
<th>Monthly Salary Range (A – I Step)</th>
<th>Additions (Number)</th>
<th>Deletions (Number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

### Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Climate Change Action Resolution

### Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:
Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Reaffirming Its Intent To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions As Part Of A Coordinated Effort Through The Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority And To Adopt Local Implementation Measures As Identified In Climate Action Plan 2020 and Beyond

Whereas, climate change is a real and increasingly urgent threat that demands action at every level of government; and

Whereas, actions taken by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) provide multiple benefits by providing energy and cost savings, air quality and public health improvements, local job creation, resource conservation, climate resilience, and enhanced equity; and

Whereas, the State of California has adopted policy targets to reduce GHGs by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 and by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050; and

Whereas, the Sonoma County General Plan 2020 includes a section on Energy which includes strong policy language related to the reduction of GHGs; and

Whereas, Sonoma County participates in a coordinated, countywide collaboration to address climate change via the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA); and

WHEREAS, the success of the RCPA depends on the participation of and collaboration with all local jurisdictions, and a commitment to pool resources towards common goals; and

WHEREAS, the RCPA has adopted the same GHG reduction targets as the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the RCPA has established twenty goals to reduce GHG emissions and nine goals to prepare for local climate impacts; and
WHEREAS, the RCPA and Sonoma County collaborated through the Climate Action Plan 2020 and Beyond project to develop Measures specific to Sonoma County that will result in the reduction of GHG and result in substantial environmental and community benefits.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that Sonoma County agrees to work towards the RCPA’s countywide target to reduce GHG emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Sonoma County adopts the following goals to reduce GHG emissions, and will pursue local actions that support these goals:

1. Increase building energy efficiency  
2. Increase renewable energy use  
3. Switch equipment from fossil fuel to electricity  
4. Reduce travel demand through focused growth  
5. Encourage a shift toward low-carbon transportation options  
6. Increase vehicle and equipment fuel efficiency  
7. Encourage a shift toward low-carbon fuels in vehicles and equipment  
8. Reduce idling  
9. Increase solid waste diversion  
10. Increase capture and use of methane from landfills  
11. Reduce water consumption  
12. Increase recycled water and greywater use  
13. Increase water and waste-water infrastructure efficiency  
14. Increase use of renewable energy in water and wastewater systems  
15. Reduce emissions from livestock operations  
16. Reduce emissions from fertilizer use  
17. Protect and enhance the value of open and working lands  
18. Promote sustainable agriculture  
19. Increase carbon sequestration  
20. Reduce emissions from the consumption of goods and services; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Sonoma County will continue to work to increase the health and resilience of social, natural, and built resources to withstand the impacts of climate change; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Sonoma County has the goal of increasing resilience by pursuing local actions that support the following goals:

1. Promote healthy, safe communities  
2. Protect water resources  
3. Promote as sustainable, climate-resilient economy  
4. Mainstream the use of climate projections